

## Amendments to the Specification:

*Please insert the following subheadings on page 1, immediately following the title and prior to the first full paragraph, as shown below:*

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 1. Field of the Invention

*Please insert the following subheading on page 1, prior to the second full paragraph, as shown below:*

#### 2. Description of the Related Art

*Please insert the following subheading on page 2, prior to the third full paragraph, as shown below:*

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

*Please insert the following subheading on page 3, prior to the first full paragraph, as shown below:*

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

*Please replace the first full paragraph on page 4, beginning at line 9, as shown below:*

Still further comonomers may optionally be present in a proportion of preferably from 0.02 to 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the vinyl ester polymer. Examples thereof are ethylenically unsaturated mono- and dicarboxylic acids, preferably acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, fumaric acid and maleic acid; ethylenically unsaturated carboxamides and

carbonitriles, preferably N-vinylformamide, acrylamide and acrylonitrile; mono- and diesters of fumaric acid and maleic acid such as the diethyl and diisopropyl esters, and also maleic anhydride, ethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acids or salts thereof, preferably vinylsulfonic acid, 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid. Further examples are precrosslinked comonomers such as ethylenically polyunsaturated comonomers, for example divinyl adipate, diallyl maleate, allyl methacrylate, butanediol diacrylate or triallyl cyanurate, or postcrosslinked comonomers, for example acrylamidoglycolic acid (AGA), methyl methacrylamidoglycolate (MAGME), N-methylolacrylamide (NMA), N-methylolmethacrylamide, N-methylolallyl carbamate, alkyl ethers and esters such as the isobutoxy ether or ester ~~or of~~ N-methylolacrylamide, of N-methylolmethacrylamide and of N-methylolallyl carbamate.

*Please replace the first full paragraph on page 5, beginning at line 24, as shown below:*

~~R<sup>1</sup> has the definition of~~ is an unbranched or branched, saturated or unsaturated, optionally substituted alkyl radical ~~having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, preferably from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, which may optionally be interrupted by heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O, S.~~ However, R<sup>1</sup> may also be H, in which case a hemiacetal is present when one R<sup>1</sup> radical is H, or an aldehyde hydrate when both R<sup>1</sup> radicals are H. Ar is an aromatic group, preferably phenylene, and this also includes aromatics which contain one or more heteroatoms from the group consisting of N, O, S. These aromatics may also have different substitution.

*Please replace the first full paragraph on page 7, beginning at line 18, through page 8, line 9, as shown below:*

Preferred ethylenically unsaturated, silane-containing monomers are  $\gamma$ -acryloyl- or  $\gamma$ -methacryloyloxypropyltri(alkoxy)silanes,  $\alpha$ -methacryloyloxymethyltri(alkoxy)silanes,  $\gamma$ -methacryloyloxypropylmethyldi(alkoxy)silanes; vinylsilanes such as vinylalkyldi(alkoxy)silanes and vinyltri(alkoxy)silanes, in which the alkoxy groups used may be, for example, methoxy, ethoxy, methoxyethylene, ethoxyethylene, methoxypropylene glycol ether or

ethoxypropylene glycol ether radicals. Examples of preferred silane-containing monomers are 3-methacryloyloxypropyltrimethoxysilane, 3-methacryloyloxypropylmethyldimethoxysilane, vinyltrimethoxysilane, vinylmethyldimethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane, vinylmethyldiethoxysilane, vinyltripropoxysilane, vinyltriisopropoxysilane, vinyltris(1-methoxy)isopropoxysilane, vinyltributoxysilane, vinyltriacetoxysilane, methacryloyloxymethyltrimethoxysilane, 3-methacryloyloxypropyltris(2-methoxyethoxy)silane, ~~vinylchlorosilane~~ vinyltrichlorosilane, vinylmethyldichlorosilane, vinyltris(2-methoxyethoxy)silane, trisacetoxyvinylsilane, allylvinyltrimethoxysilane, allyltriacetoxysilane, vinyldimethylmethoxysilane, vinyldimethylethoxysilane, vinylmethyldiacetoxysilane, vinyldimethylacetoxysilane, vinylisobutyldimethoxysilane, vinyltriisopropoxyloxysilane, vinyltributoxysilane, vinyltrihexyloxysilane, vinylmethoxydihexoxysilane, vinyltrioctyloxysilane, vinyldimethoxyoctyloxysilane, vinylmethoxydioctyloxysilane, vinylmethoxydilauryloxysilane, vinyldimethoxylauryloxysilane and also polyethylene glycol-modified vinylsilanes.

*Please replace the first full paragraph on page 9, beginning at line 19, as shown below:*

The vinyl ester polymers may be prepared in a known manner by means of polymerization; preferably by bulk polymerization, suspension polymerization or by polymerization in organic solvents, more preferably in alcoholic solution. Suitable solvents and regulators are, for example, methanol, ethanol, propanol, and isopropanol. The polymerization is carried out under reflux at a temperature of from 50°C to 100°C and the free-radical reaction is initiated by adding common initiators. Examples of common initiators are percarbonates such as cyclohexyl peroxodicarbonate or peresters such as t-butyl perneodecanoate or t-butyl perpivalate.

*Please replace the third full paragraph on page 11, beginning at line 35, through page 12, line 11, as shown below:*

For the acetalization, the partly or fully hydrolyzed vinyl ester polymers are reacted with aliphatic or aromatic aldehydes having preferably from 1 to 15 carbon atoms

which may optionally be substituted by one or more substituents from the group consisting of hydroxyl, carboxyl, ~~and~~ sulfonate, ammonium, and aldehyde radicals. If appropriate, the aldehydes may also be used in masked form, for example as hemiacetals or full acetals, or with protecting groups. Preferred aldehydes from the group of the aliphatic aldehydes having from 1 to 15 carbon atoms are formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, propionaldehyde and most preferably butyraldehyde or a mixture of butyraldehyde and acetaldehyde. The aromatic aldehydes used may be, for example, benzaldehyde or derivatives thereof.

*Please replace the Example 1 paragraph on page 15, beginning at line 11, through page 16, line 5, as shown below:*

Example 1:

A 2-liter stirred tank with reflux condenser, metering apparatus, thermostatable jacket and an anchor stirrer was initially charged with 427.27 g of methanol, 77.12 g of vinyl acetate (VAc), 647.84 mg (2.63 mmol) of 1,1'-di(ethylformyl)tetramethyldisiloxane and 347.76 mg of PPV (t-butyl perpivalate - 75% in aliphatics; half-life = 1 h at 74°C). The tank was heated to 60°C. On attainment of gentle reflux, the metering of initiator started (4.99 g of PPV and 46.74 g of methanol). ~~The~~ During the first hour, the initiator was metered at 6 ml/h. After 1 hour of incipient polymerization, the monomer metering (390.3 g of VAc and 3.28 g (13.32 mmol) of 1,1'-di(ethylformyl)tetramethyldisiloxane) was subsequently started over a period of 240 minutes (rate: 106 ml/h). At the same time, the initiator metering was increased to 12 ml/h. The initiator metering ran at this rate for 240 minutes and ended with the monomer metering. After the initiator metering, the reaction ran for another 120 minutes at the reaction temperature. After this postreaction time, the tank was heated for distillation, in the course of which fresh methanol which corresponded to the amount distilled off was added to the tank every 30 minutes for 6 h (demonomerization).

Solid resin analyses:

Solids content (SC): 48.27% (methanolic solution); pure solid resin: viscosity (Höpler, 10% in ethyl acetate) 2.33 mPas; acid number AN (methanol) 8.98 mg KOH/g; Mw (by GPC, eluent THF; polystyrene standards): ~~31-000~~ 31,000 g/mol; Mn: ~~12-200~~ 12,200 g/mol;

polydispersity Mw/Mn: 2.54; silicon content: 0.119% (alkaline digestion); Si content by <sup>1</sup>H NMR: 0.126%.

*Please replace the Example 2 paragraph on page 16, beginning at line 7, as shown below:*

Example 2:

As in Example 1, with the difference that instead of 1,1'-di(ethylformyl)tetramethyldisiloxane 2.075 g (15.95 mmol) of 3-trimethylsilylpropionaldehyde were used. Of this, 342.34 mg (2.63 mmol) were used in the initial charge; 1.733 g (13.32 mmol) were in the monomer metering.

Solid resin analyses:

Solids content (SC): 49.32% (methanolic solution); pure solid resin: viscosity (Höppler, 10% in ethyl acetate) 2.65 mPas; acid number AN (methanol) 5.31 mg KOH/g; Mw (by GPC, eluent THF; polystyrene standards): ~~38-000~~ 38,000 g/mol; Mn: ~~14-000~~ 14,000 g/mol; polydispersity Mw/Mn: 2.71; silicon content: 0.075% (alkaline digestion); Si content by <sup>1</sup>H NMR: 0.084%.

*Please replace the Example 3 paragraph on page 16, beginning at line 23, as shown below:*

Example 3:

As in Example 1, with the difference that instead of 1,1'-di(ethylformyl)-tetramethyldisiloxane 3.033 g (15.95 mmol) of 3-(methyldiethoxy)silylpropionaldehyde were used. Of this, 500.0 mg (2.63 mmol) were used in the initial charge; 2.533 g (13.32 mmol) were in the monomer metering.

Solid resin analyses:

Solids content (SC): 48.92% (methanolic solution); pure solid resin: viscosity (Höppler, 10% in ethyl acetate) 2.61 mPas; acid number AN (methanol) 6.02 mg KOH/g; Mw (by GPC, eluent THF; polystyrene standards): ~~37-500~~ 37,500 g/mol; Mn: ~~13-700~~ 13,700 g/mol;

polydispersity Mw/Mn: 2.74; silicon content: 0.082% (alkaline digestion); Si content by <sup>1</sup>H NMR: 0.087%.

*Please replace the Comparative Example 4 paragraph on page 17, beginning at line 1, as shown below:*

Comparative Example 4:

As in Example 1, with the difference that, instead of silane-containing aldehyde 1,1'-di(ethylformyl)tetramethyldisiloxane, 3.127 g (15.94 mmol) of 3-mercaptopropyltrimethoxysilane (Wacker GF 70) were used. Of this, 515.5 mg (2.63 mmol) were used in the initial charge; 2.612 g (13.31 mmol) were in the monomer metering.

Solid resin analyses:

Solids content (SC): 49.72% (methanolic solution); pure solid resin: viscosity (Höppler, 10% in ethyl acetate) 2.11 mPas; acid number AN (methanol) 10.09 mg KOH/g; Mw (by GPC, eluent THF; polystyrene standards): ~~26-400~~ 26,400 g/mol; Mn: ~~11-400~~ 11,400 g/mol; polydispersity Mw/Mn: 2.32; silicon content: 0.081% (alkaline digestion);

Evaluation: Here it was found that the polymerization is retarded by the presence of a mercapto-containing regulator. Conversion (~~conversion~~ with respect to time in the polymerization was lower than in Examples 1, 2 and 3[[]]). In addition, slight yellowing of the solution in the course of the polymerization was observed when the mercapto silane was used.

*Please replace the Example 5 paragraph on page 17, beginning at line 25, through page 18, line 20, as shown below:*

Example 5:

A 2-liter stirred tank with reflux condenser, metering apparatus, thermostatable jacket and an anchor stirrer was initially charged with 426.87 g of methanol, 77.05 g of vinyl acetate (VAc), 459.51 mg (1.87 mmol) of 1,1'-di(ethylformyl)tetramethyldisiloxane, 315.82 mg of vinyltriethoxysilane (97%) and 347.44 mg of PPV (t-butyl perpivalate - 75% in aliphatics; half-life = 1 h at 74°C). The tank was heated to 60°C. On attainment of gentle reflux, the metering of initiator started (4.98 g of PPV and 46.70 g of methanol). During the

The first hour, the initiator was metered at 6 ml/h. After 1 hour of incipient polymerization, the monomer metering (389.93 g of VAc, 1.61 g of vinyltriethoxysilane and 2.345 g (9.53 mmol) of 1,1'-di(ethylformyl)tetramethyldisiloxane) was subsequently started over a period of 240 minutes (rate: 106 ml/h). At the same time, the initiator metering was increased to 12 ml/h. The initiator metering ran at this rate for 240 minutes and ended with the monomer metering. After the initiator metering, the reaction ran for another 120 minutes at the reaction temperature. After this postreaction time, the tank was heated for distillation, in the course of which fresh methanol which corresponded to the amount distilled off was added to the tank every 30 minutes for 6 h (demonomerization).

Solid resin analyses:

Solids content (SC): 50.70% (methanolic solution); pure solid resin: viscosity (Höppler, 10% in ethyl acetate) 2.48 mPas; acid number AN (methanol) 6.73 mg KOH/g; Mw (by GPC, eluent THF; polystyrene standards): ~~36-500~~ 36,500 g/mol; Mn: ~~15-500~~ 15,500 g/mol; polydispersity Mw/Mn: 2.35; silicon content: 0.153% (alkaline digestion); Si content by <sup>1</sup>H NMR: 0.162%.

*Please replace the Comparative Example 6 paragraph on page 18, beginning at line 22, through page 19, line 2, as shown below:*

Comparative Example 6:

As in Example 5, with the difference that, instead of silane-containing aldehyde 1,1'-di(ethylformyl)tetramethyldisiloxane, and 2.238 g (11.41 mmol) of 3-mercaptopropyltrimethoxysilane were used. Of this, 366.39 mg (1.87 mmol) were used in the initial charge; 1.872 g (9.54 mmol) were in the monomer metering.

Solid resin analyses:

Solids content (SC): 48.7% (methanolic solution); pure solid resin: viscosity (Höppler, 10% in ethyl acetate) 2.37 mPas; acid number AN (methanol) 10.09 mg KOH/g; Mw (by GPC, eluent THF; polystyrene standards): ~~32-700~~ 32,700 g/mol; Mn: ~~13-500~~ 13,500 g/mol; polydispersity Mw/Mn: 2.42; silicon content: 0.113% (alkaline digestion);

Evaluation: Comparative Example 6 leads to a lower molecular weight than Example 5. The mercapto compound is a very strong regulator. The silane aldehyde exhibits milder regulator action, even though 2 free aldehyde groups in the compound are transferred.

*Please replace the Example 7 paragraph on page 19, beginning at line 4, as shown below:*

Example 7:

A 2-liter stirred tank with reflux condenser, metering apparatus, thermostatable jacket and an anchor stirrer was initially charged with 424.61 g of methanol, 72.81 g of vinyl acetate (VAc), 766.44 mg of VeoVa10, 3.10 g of isopropenyl acetate (IPAc, 99%), 766.44 mg (3.11 mmol) of 1,1'-di(ethylformyl)tetramethyldisiloxane and 345.59 mg of PPV (t-butyl perpivalate - 75% in aliphatics; half-life = 1 h at 74°C). The tank was heated to 60°C. On attainment of gentle reflux, the metering of initiator started (4.95 g of PPV and 46.45 g of methanol). During the ~~The~~ first hour, the initiator was metered at 6 ml/h. After 1 hour of incipient polymerization, the monomer metering (368.47 g of VAc, 3.88 g of VeoVa10, 15.67 g of IPAc (99%) and 3.88 g (15.76 mmol) of 1,1'-di(ethylformyl)tetramethyldisiloxane) was subsequently started over a period of 240 minutes (rate: 106 ml/h). At the same time, the initiator metering was increased to 12 ml/h. The initiator metering ran at this rate for 240 minutes and ended with the monomer metering. After the initiator metering, the reaction ran for another 120 minutes at the reaction temperature. After this postreaction time, the tank was heated for distillation, in the course of which fresh methanol which corresponded to the amount distilled off was added to the tank every 30 minutes for 6 h (demonomerization).

Solid resin analyses:

Solids content (SC): 47.61% (methanolic solution); pure solid resin: viscosity (Höppler, 10% in ethyl acetate) 2.26 mPas; acid number AN (methanol) 3.93 mg KOH/g; Mw (by GPC, eluent THF; polystyrene standards): ~~28-000~~ 28,000 g/mol; Mn: ~~11-500~~ 11,500 g/mol; polydispersity Mw/Mn: 2.43; silicon content: 0.155% (alkaline digestion); Si content by <sup>1</sup>H NMR: 0.172%.



*Please replace the Example 8 paragraph on page 20, beginning at line 1, as shown below:*

Comparative Example 8:

As in Example 7, with the difference that, instead of silane-containing aldehyde 1,1'-di(ethylformyl)tetramethyldisiloxane, 3.703 g (18.87 mmol) of 3-mercaptopropyltrimethoxysilane were used. Of this, 611.59 mg (3.12 mmol) were used in the initial charge; 3.091 g (15.75 mmol) were in the monomer metering.

Solid resin analyses:

Solids content (SC): 44.58% (methanolic solution); pure solid resin: viscosity (Höppler, 10% in ethyl acetate) 1.98 mPas; acid number AN (methanol) 3.37 mg KOH/g; Mw (by GPC, eluent THF; polystyrene standards): ~~24,300~~ 24,300 g/mol; Mn: 9800 g/mol; polydispersity Mw/Mn: 2.48; silicon content: 0.102% (alkaline digestion). [[:]]

*Please replace the Example 9 paragraph on page 20, beginning at line 16, through page 21, line 9, as shown below:*

Example 9:

A 2-liter stirred tank with reflux condenser, metering apparatus, thermostatable jacket and an anchor stirrer was initially charged with 268.78 g of ethyl acetate, 121.83 g of vinyl acetate (VAc), 1.22 g (4.15 mmol) of 3,3-diethoxypropyltriethoxysilane and 549.33 mg of PPV (t-butyl perpivalate - 75% in aliphatics; half-life = 1 h at 74°C). The tank was heated to 60°C. On attainment of gentle reflux, the metering of initiator started (7.88 g of PPV and 51.49 g of ethyl acetate). During the ~~The~~ first hour, the initiator was metered at 5 ml/h. After 1 hour of incipient polymerization, the monomer metering (616.52 g of VAc and 6.17 g (20.98 mmol) of 3,3-diethoxypropyltriethoxysilane) was subsequently started over a period of 240 minutes (rate: 167.4 ml/h). At the same time, the initiator metering was increased to 10.5 ml/h. The initiator metering ran at this rate for 300 minutes and ended 1 h after the monomer metering. After the initiator metering, the reaction ran for another 120 minutes at the reaction temperature. After this postreaction time, the tank was heated for distillation, in

the course of which fresh ~~methanol~~ ethyl acetate which corresponded to the amount distilled off was added to the tank every 30 minutes for 6 h (demonomerization).

Solid resin analyses:

Solids content (SC): 61.90% (methanolic solution); pure solid resin: viscosity (Höppler, 10% in ethyl acetate) 11.11 mPas; acid number AN (methanol) 5.61 mg KOH/g; Mw (by GPC, eluent THF; polystyrene standards): ~~188-600~~ 188,600 g/mol; Mn: ~~43-500~~ 43,500 g/mol; polydispersity Mw/Mn: 4.33; silicon content: 0.084% (alkaline digestion).

*Please replace the Comparative Example 10 paragraph on page 21, beginning at line 11, as shown below:*

Comparative Example 10:

As in Example 9, with the difference that, instead of the full acetal of the silane-containing aldehyde 3,3-diethoxypropyltriethoxysilane, 4.943 g (25.19 mmol) of 3-mercaptopropyltrimethoxysilane were used. Of this, 814.57 mg (4.15 mmol) were used; 4.128 g (21.04 mmol) were in the monomer metering.

Solid resin analyses:

Solids content (SC): 62.02% (methanolic solution); pure solid resin: viscosity (Höppler, 10% in ethyl acetate) 4.42 mPas; acid number AN (methanol) 5.05 mg KOH/g; Mw (by GPC, eluent THF; polystyrene standards): ~~69-000~~ 69,000 g/mol; Mn: ~~26-500~~ 26,500 g/mol; polydispersity Mw/Mn: 2.60; silicon content: 0.076% (alkaline digestion).

*Please replace Table 1 on page 22, beginning at line 1, as shown below:*

Table 1

Ex.	Regulator type, (amount in mmol)	Transfer (%) <sup>1)</sup>	Mw	Mn	Polydispersity	Si content (%) <sup>2)</sup>
1	C (15.95)	70	<del>31 000</del> <u>31,000</u>	<del>12 200</del> <u>12,200</u>	2.54	0.119
2	I (15.95)	94	<del>38 000</del> <u>38,000</u>	<del>14 000</del> <u>14,000</u>	2.71	0.075
3	I (15.95)	96	<del>37 500</del> <u>37,500</u>	<del>13 700</del> <u>13,700</u>	2.74	0.082
C4	SH-Silane (15.95)	100	<del>26 400</del> <u>26,400</u>	<del>11 400</del> <u>11,400</u>	2.32	0.081
5	C (11.40)	86	<del>36 500</del> <u>36,500</u>	<del>15 500</del> <u>15,500</u>	2.35	0.153
C6	SH-Silane (11.41)	100	<del>32 700</del> <u>32,700</u>	<del>13 500</del> <u>13,500</u>	2.42	0.113
7	C (18.87)	91	<del>28 000</del> <u>28,000</u>	<del>11 500</del> <u>11,500</u>	2.43	0.155
C8	SH-Silane (18.87)	100	<del>24 300</del> <u>24,300</u>	9800	2.48	0.102
9	II (25.13)	20	<del>188 600</del> <u>188,600</u>	<del>43 500</del> <u>43,500</u>	4.33	0.084
C10	SH-Silane (25.19)	100	<del>69 000</del> <u>69,000</u>	<del>26 500</del> <u>26,500</u>	2.60	0.076

*Please replace the Example 11 paragraph on page 22, beginning at line 11, through page 23, line 6, as shown below:*

Example 11 (Hydrolysis of the resin from Example 9):

A 2-liter stirred tank (at ambient pressure) with reflux condenser, metering apparatus and a paddle stirrer was initially charged with 437.7 g of a 61.9% polymer solution of the silane-containing polyvinyl acetate solid resin from Example 9 in methanol which ~~were~~ was diluted to a solids content of 20% with methanol. This solution was then heated to 55°C. Subsequently, 5.1 ml of 45% methanolic sodium hydroxide solution were added rapidly. After the gel point, the methanolic suspension was stirred at 55°C for 2 h. In order to obtain the precipitated PVA as an aqueous solution, the suspension was heated to distillation and the distillate was replaced by water. This operation was repeated until all of the methanol had been replaced by water.

*Please replace the Comparative Example 22 paragraph on page 25, beginning at line 1, as shown below:*

Comparative Example 22:

As in Example 21, but with 1600 ml of dist. water, 744 ml of 20% HCl, 127 ml of butyraldehyde and 970 ml of a 16.1% aqueous solution of the polyvinyl alcohol from Comparative Example 12, viscosity 5.28 mPas (DIN 5015; Höppler method; 4% aqueous solution). The pH after the resuspension was 3.3. The suspension was made alkaline (pH 12.3) with 20 ml of 10% sodium hydroxide solution and stirred at room temperature likewise for 15 hours and at 50°C for 4 hours.

A modified polyvinyl butyral having 17.4% by weight of vinyl alcohol units, 1.3% by weight of vinyl acetate units and 81.3% by weight of vinyl butyral units was obtained.

The viscosity (DIN 53015; Höppler method; 10% ethanolic solution) was 97.2 mPas. Si content: 0.093% by weight. The 10% ethanolic solution was yellow.

*Please replace the Comparative Example 24 paragraph on page 26, beginning at line 24, through page 27, line 3, as shown below:*

**Comparative Example 24:**

As in Example 23, but with 1520 ml of dist. water, 512 ml of 20% HCl, 62 ml of acetaldehyde, 79 ml of butyraldehyde and 928 ml of a 18.1% aqueous solution of the polyvinyl alcohol from Comparative Example 14, viscosity 2.26 mPas (DIN 53015; Höppler method; 4% aqueous solution). The pH after the resuspension was 3.4. The suspension was made alkaline (pH 12.4) with 19 ml of 10% sodium hydroxide solution and stirred at room temperature likewise for 15 hours and at 50°C for 4 hours.

A modified polyvinyl acetal having 15.6% by weight of vinyl alcohol units, 1.3% by weight of vinyl acetate units and 83.1% by weight of vinyl acetal units was obtained. The viscosity (DIN 53015; Höppler method; 10% ethanolic solution) was 27.1 mPas. The Si content was determined to be 0.157% by weight. The 10% ethanolic solution was slightly yellow.

*Please replace the Comparative Example 25 paragraph on page 27, beginning at line 4, as shown below:*

**Example 25:**

As in Example 21, but with 1450 ml of dist. water, 760 ml of 20% HCl, 129 ml of butyraldehyde and 1216 ml of a 14.0% aqueous solution of the polyvinyl alcohol from Example 15, viscosity 2.73 mPas (DIN 53015; Höppler method; 4% aqueous solution). The pH after the resuspension was 3.6. The suspension was made alkaline (pH 12.2) with 20 ml of 10% sodium hydroxide solution and stirred at room temperature likewise for 15 hours and at 40°C for 4 hours.

A modified polyvinyl butyral having 17.2% by weight of vinyl alcohol units, 1.4% by weight of vinyl acetate units and 81.4% by weight of vinyl butyral units was obtained. The viscosity (DIN 53015; Höppler method; 10% ethanolic solution) was 112.2 mPas. Si content: 0.193% by weight.

*Please replace the Comparative Example 26 paragraph on page 27, beginning at line 21, as shown below:*

**Comparative Example 26:**

As in Example 21, but with 1280 ml of dist. water, 750 ml of 20% HCl, 128 ml of butyraldehyde and 1400 ml of a 12.0% aqueous solution of the polyvinyl alcohol from Comparative Example 16, viscosity 2.57 mPas (DIN 53015; Höppler method; 4% aqueous solution). The precipitation temperature was -4°C. The pH after the resuspension was 3.6. The suspension was made alkaline (pH 12.2) with 20 ml of 10% sodium hydroxide solution and stirred at room temperature likewise for 15 hours and at 40°C for 4 hours.

A modified polyvinyl butyral having 17.6% by weight of vinyl alcohol units, 1.3% by weight of vinyl acetate units and 81.1% by weight of vinyl butyral units was obtained.

The viscosity (DIN 53015; Höppler method; 10% ethanolic solution) was 26.3 mPas. Si content: 0.136% by weight. The 10% ethanolic solution was intensely yellow.

*Please replace the Example 27 paragraph on page 28, beginning at line 1, as shown below:*

**Example 27:**

As in Example 21, but with 1580 ml of dist. water, 780 ml of 20% HCl, 133 ml of butyraldehyde and 1170 ml of a 14.9% aqueous solution of the polyvinyl alcohol from Example 17, viscosity 2.37 mPas (DIN 53015; Höppler method; 4% aqueous solution). The precipitation temperature was -4°C. The pH after the resuspension was 3.3. The suspension was made alkaline (pH 12.2) with 21 ml of 10% sodium hydroxide solution and stirred at room temperature likewise for 15 hours and at 40°C for 4 hours.

A modified polyvinyl butyral having 17.1% by weight of vinyl alcohol units, 1.5% by weight of vinyl acetate units and 81.4% by weight of vinyl butyral units was obtained.

The viscosity (DIN 53015; Höppler method; 10% ethanolic solution) was 23.4 mPas. Si content: 0.189% by weight.

*Please replace the Comparative Example 28 paragraph on page 28, beginning at line 20, as shown below:*

**Comparative Example 28:**

As in Example 21, but with 1500 ml of dist. water, 750 ml of 20% HCl, 128 ml of butyraldehyde and 1170 ml of a 14.4% aqueous solution of the polyvinyl alcohol from Comparative Example 18, viscosity 2.21 mPas (DIN 53015; Höppler method; 4% aqueous solution). The precipitation temperature was -5°C. The pH after the resuspension was 3.6. The suspension was made alkaline (pH 12.2) with 20 ml of 10% sodium hydroxide solution and stirred at room temperature likewise for 15 hours and at 35°C for 4 hours. A modified polyvinyl butyral having 17.5% by weight of vinyl alcohol units, 1.5% by weight of vinyl acetate units and 81.0% by weight of vinyl butyral units was obtained. The viscosity (DIN 53015; Höppler method; 10% ethanolic solution) was 20.6 mPas. Si content: 0.122% by weight. The 10% ethanolic solution was yellow.

*Please replace the Example 29 paragraph on page 29, beginning at line 1, as shown below:*

**Example 29:**

As in Example 21, but with 1600 ml of dist. water, 770 ml of 20% HCl, 125 ml of butyraldehyde and 1140 ml of a 15.3% aqueous solution of the polyvinyl alcohol from Example 19, viscosity 2.51 mPas (DIN 53015; Höppler method; 4% aqueous solution). The precipitation temperature was -4°C. The pH after the resuspension was 3.3. The suspension was made alkaline (pH 12.3) with 21 ml of 10% sodium hydroxide solution and stirred at room temperature likewise for 15 hours and at 40°C for 4 hours. A modified polyvinyl butyral having 18.2% by weight of vinyl alcohol units, 1.4% by weight of vinyl acetate units and 80.4% by weight of vinyl butyral units was obtained. The viscosity (DIN 53015; Höppler method; 10% ethanolic solution) was 25.9 mPas. Si content: 0.094% by weight.

*Please replace the Example 30 paragraph on page 29, beginning at line 19, as shown below:*

**Example 30:**

As in Example 21, but with 1700 ml of dist. water, 800 ml of 20% HCl, 120 ml of butyraldehyde and 990 ml of a 17.2% aqueous solution of the polyvinyl alcohol from Example 20, viscosity 2.49 mPas (DIN 53015; Höppler method; 4% aqueous solution). The precipitation temperature was -4°C. The pH after the resuspension was 3.3. The suspension was made alkaline (pH 12.4) with 22 ml of 10% sodium hydroxide solution and stirred at room temperature likewise for 15 hours and at 40°C for 4 hours.

A modified polyvinyl butyral having 18.6% by weight of vinyl alcohol units, 1.3% by weight of vinyl acetate units and 80.1% by weight of vinyl butyral units was obtained.

The viscosity (DIN 53015; Höppler method; 10% ethanolic solution) was 25.1 mPas. Si content: 0.101% by weight.

*Please replace the first full paragraph on page 30, beginning at line 1, as shown below:*

1. Determination of the dynamic viscosity of a solution of polyvinyl ~~acetals~~ acetal (solution viscosity):

90.00 ± 0.01 g of ethanol and 10.00 ± 0.01 g of polyvinyl acetal were weighed in a 250 ml Erlenmeyer flask with ground-glass stopper and fully dissolved at 50°C in the agitation machine. Subsequently, the solution was cooled to 20°C and the dynamic viscosity (DIN 53015; Höppler method) was determined at 20°C with a suitable sphere, for example sphere 3.